UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/INF/52/6/Add.1
30 January 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/RUSSIAN

Fifty-second session

CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE PROTECTION, SECURITY AND SAFETY OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Two additional reports were submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 51/156 of 16 December 1996, one from Greece and the other from the Russian Federation.

II. REPORTS RECEIVED FROM STATES PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 10 OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 51/156

2. The reports contained in the present addendum concern attacks on diplomatic premises and an incident involving the driver of a United Nations Permanent Representative.

3. Greece submitted a report covering two incidents, one an attack against the United States Embassy and another against the Embassy of Peru, in which an individual was wounded:

(a) 15 February 1996. An anti-tank rocket exploded, at 10.58 a.m., at an open-air parking lot of the United States Embassy, causing damage to a building and to seven vehicles. An unknown group of offenders, called "E.O.17N", assumed responsibility for this act by a manifest sent to the daily Eleftherotypia on 30 May 1997;

(b) 30 December 1996. An autoschediastic watch mechanism exploded at 6.40 a.m. outside the Embassy of Peru. One person was wounded and three buildings were damaged. An unknown group of offenders, called the "Combating Guerrillas Group", assumed responsibility for this act in calls to the daily Eleftherotypia, and to the radio station "Sky".

4. The Greek Government has expressed its resolve to investigate the case thoroughly and bring the offenders to justice. It stated that it continues to take all necessary measures aimed at ensuring the safety and security of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives in Greece and announced its determination to inform the Secretary-General, as soon as possible, of the final outcome of the relevant proceedings.

5. The Russian Federation reported on an incident involving the driver of the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation and New York City police officers.

6. On 31 October 1997, at 3.20 p.m., the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation was en route to an important meeting of the Security Council. On the way, the traffic along 67th Street was blocked by a New York police patrol car, the driver of which was inside the car chatting with a passer-by. When the driver of the Permanent Mission vehicle sounded his horn with a view to drawing attention to the need to let the Russian Ambassador's car pass, the police officers reacted in a provocatively rude manner. After the Permanent Mission's vehicle was allowed past, it turned onto Lexington Avenue and stopped at a red light, and the very same patrol car, which had followed it, yet again blocked its way. The police officers got out of their car and opened the door

of the Permanent Mission vehicle, pushed back the driver and forcibly removed the key from the ignition. When the Permanent Representative mentioned diplomatic immunity, a police officer replied that only the Ambassador was a diplomat and diplomatic immunity did not extend to the car or to the driver. As a result of this incident, the Permanent Representative was late for a meeting of the permanent members of the Security Council.

7. The Russian Federation expressed its indignation at what it perceived as an explicit intrusion by the New York police into a vehicle of its Permanent Mission to the United Nations, which, in its view, was a serious violation of the protection, security and safety of a diplomatic mission and of a representative to an international intergovernmental organization.

8. The Russian Federation demanded an official apology from the United States authorities, punishment of the guilty parties in this occurrence and the adoption of the necessary measures to prevent similar incidents in the future.